

# Leading Learning Award

## April 2024



Cristy Monge Franco

“Cristy began working with Great Start to Quality in 2021. Since day one, she has been excited and motivated to make a lasting impression in the Early Childhood world. Cristy is eager to support the licensed childcare providers in Kent County in any way she can! This was evident when Cristy volunteered to lead a new work stream nearly 2 years ago through the Facilities Improvement Fund Grants. These grants support licensed childcare providers/programs in making quality improvements to their programs. Cristy has worked tirelessly to assist providers in completing their applications, creating their spending plans (which included connecting with contractors to schedule work to be done), completing reporting on funds spent, answering many, many questions, and more! She has gone above and beyond in her role to ensure that as many providers as possible in Kent County have access to these funds.

We recently found out that Kent County was awarded and spent more of these funds than any other county in Michigan (over \$5.5 million!)! This is a direct testament to Cristy's dedication to this work and the providers in Kent!

We are so grateful to have Cristy on our team!